THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

VPTs in Bihar

† 2604. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village panchayats in Bihar where telephones have been installed so far;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to connect each village of the State with telephone facility;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the effective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 5,286 village panchayats in Bihar have been provided with telecom facility.

(b) to (d) 15,496 villages in Bihar have already been provided with telecom facility by February, 2001. Government has planned to provide telecom facility in all the remaining villages by March, 2002. New technologies like CDOT TDMA/PMP and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) are being inducted in the rural network to achieve the targets.

Convergence Bill

2605. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government are going to bring in before the Parliament the Convergence Bill to bring IT-related issues under one roof; and

(b) in what manner it will help in clearing the proposals through single window?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHR1TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b)The Report of the Group on Telecom & IT

† Onginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.